## Victoria Jimenez Patrol Officer Since 2000

Growing up in the inner city wasn't always easy for Victoria, but having a strong role model in her life paved the way for a very successful future! Victoria is now very grateful to her grandmother, Tomasita Martinez, for being so strict with her as she was growing up.

Shortly after graduating from high school, Victoria married and began her family. After working at American Airlines for over six years, in the payroll department, Victoria found herself jobless when the travel industry began to falter. As Victoria began her job search, she decided to explore the possibility of becoming a police officer. Upon sharing her news with the family, Victoria states that there was a wide range of reactions. Her grandmother was completely opposed to the idea, primarily because of the risks involved. On the other hand, her youngest child Troy thought it was "cool" for mom to become a police officer.

Based on the information obtained through free workshops offered to her by the Recruiting Division, Victoria began a vigorous fitness program, which included running and push-ups. After receiving her appointment to the academy, Victoria discovered that her biggest obstacle was in the area of academics. Since she had not been in school for over 13 years, she had to sharpen her reading and writing skills as well as work on her study habits. Going through the academy was not easy for Victoria; however making it even more difficult for her was a period of grieving when her grandmother passed away shortly before she graduated. Victoria feels confident that although her grandmother had difficulty accepting her career choice, she knows that her grandmother would be very proud of her.

Victoria patrols the same area where she grew up. She states that she is "thrilled to be able to give something back to my community." Through special arrangements with her commanders Victoria is now off on Wednesday's and Saturday's so that she may attend Wayland Baptist University. When asked about her decision to return to school, Victoria states that prior to becoming a police officer she did not have the confidence or the desire to pursue her education. However, having gone through the academy Victoria gained enough confidence in herself that she decided it would be disgrace to her and her family if she did not pursue her education. We all wish Victoria well in her new pursuit, we too are certain that you will succeed!

